

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IO-13 AID-05 /075 W

----- 002506

R 010255Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5264

INFO CINCPAC

COMUSMACHTAI BANGKOK

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FOR CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJ: SENI GOVERNMENT WINS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, 212-5

1. GOVERNMENT HEADED BY PRIME MINISTER SENI PRAMOT WON VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN THAI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EVENING OF APR 30 MY MARGIN OF 212-5. SOCIAL ACTION PARTY MEMBERS OF HOUSE WALKED OUT PRIOR TO VOTE IN PROTEST AGAINST CURTAILMENT OF DEBATE. TEN OTHER MEMBERS REMAINED IN HOUSE BUT ABSTAINED FROM VOTE.

2. GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS SOLIDLY SUPPORTED SENI, THOUGH SPEAKER OF HOUSE UTHAI (DEMOCRAT) AND DEPUTY SPEAKER MONGKOL (THAI NATION) ABSTAINED FROM VOTING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CUSTOM. GOVERNMENT PICKED UP EIGHT NOMINALLY OPPOSITION VOTES, IN INCLUDING, SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY, TWO VOTES OF SOCIALIST PARTY OF THAILAND.

3. DEBATE BEGAN AT 0930 APR 30, WITH PRESENTATION OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAM BY PRIME MINISTER SENI. DEBATE CONTINUED UNTIL 6:30 PM WHEN DEMOCRAT MP CHAIWAT TRAISUNANT

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(PHETCHABUN) MOVED TO CLOSE DEBATE AND VOTE ON MOTION OF

CONFIDENCE. THIS MOTION, WHICH TOOK SAP BY SURPRISE, PASSED BY MARGIN OF 174-23, WHEN MANY MP'S WERE NOT RPT NOT IN CHAMBER. (PRIME MINISTER SENI WAS ALSO EVIDENTLY TAKEN BY SURPRISE, AS HE LATER SAID THAT HE WISHED DEBATE HAD CONTINUED. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE ACCEPTED THE RESULT.) DESPITE INVITATIO TO DO SO BY SPEAKER UTHAI, OPPOSITION DID NOT RPT NOT INTRODUCE COUNTER-MOTION TO PROLONG DEBATE. VOTE ON MOTION OF CONFIDENCE ENSUED, WHICH RESULTS AS NOTED ABOVE. HOUSE ADJOUNED SHORTLY AFTER 7:40 PM.

4. AT THIS POINT THERE IS NO DESIGNATED OPPOSITION LEADER OR EVEN A FORMAL PARLIAMENTARY LEADER OF SAP. FORMER MINISTER OF FINANCE BOONCHU ROTCHANASATHIAN IN FACT LED OPPOSITION ATTACK, WHICH CHARACTERIZED GOVERNMENT PROGRAM AS "VAGUE, UNREALISTIC, AND DECEITFUL" BOONCHU LATER CLAIMED OPPOSITION WAS NOT RPT NOT GIVEN ENOUGH TIME TO SPEAK.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 01 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: ullricre
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